

Docket No.: 826.154

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

Yasutsugu KURODA, et al.

Group Art Unit: 2132

JAN 0 3 2003

RECEIVED

Confirmation No. 5479

Serial No. 09/327,477

**Technology Center 2100** 

Filed: June 8, 1999

Examiner: Abdulhakim NOBAHAR

ELECTRONIC DATA STORAGE APPARATUS WITH KEY MANAGEMENT FUNCTION For: AND ELECTRONIC DATA STORAGE METHOD

## **AMENDMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed September 24, 2002, and having a period for response set to expire on December 24, 2002.

The following amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

## IN THE CLAIMS:

Please AMEND claims 1-7 and 9-19, CANCEL claims 20 and 21 and ADD new claims 22-26 in accordance with the following:

(Once Amended) An electronic data storage apparatus for storing electronic data, comprising:

a key management unit managing an individual key unique to the electronic data storage apparatus to which said management unit belongs, and a common key shared with other electronic data storage apparatuses, selecting the individual key when performing an encryption process on electronic data stored in the electronic data storage apparatus to which said management unit belongs, and selecting the common key when performing the encryption process or when verifying electronic data transmitted to or received from another electronic data storage apparatus; and

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